

Cheltenham Rural District

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# Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1944

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C. D. OUTRED, D.P.H., M.R.C.S.,

L.R.C.P., L.D.S. (ENG.)

# Cheltenham Rural District Council

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## ANNUAL REPORT 1944

*To the Chairman and Members of the Cheltenham  
Rural District Council.*

Berkeley Chambers,  
Berkeley Street,  
Gloucester.

20th August, 1945.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the Health of the District for the year 1944. This Report incorporates the Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector. As in the previous Report, only essential matters are dealt with; this is in accordance with instructions received from the Ministry of Health.

I am,

Your obedient Servant

C. D. OUTRED,  
(Acting) Medical Officer of Health.

# Cheltenham Rural District Council

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Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District of Cheltenham for the year 1944.

Area in Acres, 81,940.

Rateable value (16/4/44), £124,262.

Population (as estimated by the Registrar General), 20,770.

Yield of one penny rate, £510 10s. 0d.

## Vital Statistics

### BIRTHS

|              |    | LIVE BIRTHS. |          | Total. |
|--------------|----|--------------|----------|--------|
|              |    | Males.       | Females. |        |
| Legitimate   | .. | 192          | 164      | 356    |
| Illegitimate | .. | 24           | 13       | 37     |
| Total        | .. | 216          | 177      | 393    |

### BIRTHS.

|              |    | STILL BIRTHS. |          | Total. |
|--------------|----|---------------|----------|--------|
|              |    | Males.        | Females. |        |
| Legitimate   | .. | 5             | 3        | 8      |
| Illegitimate | .. | —             | 1        | 1      |
| Total        | .. | 5             | 4        | 9      |

Giving a Birth Rate of 18.9 per 1,000 population.

9.4 per cent. of total live births were illegitimate against 10.2 the previous year.

### INFANTILE DEATH RATE.

|              |    | Males | Females. | Total. |
|--------------|----|-------|----------|--------|
| Legitimate   | .. | 7     | 7        | 14     |
| Illegitimate | .. | 3     | 2        | 5      |
| Total        | .. | 10    | 9        | 19     |

Giving an Infantile Mortality Rate of 48.3 per 1,000 Live Births.

## DEATHS.

215 (98 Males, 117 Females) deaths of residents were registered during the year, giving a Death Rate of 10.3 per 1,000 population.

Thirty-one deaths were transferred out to their own areas and 86 transferred in being resident who died in outside districts.

Forty-six per cent. of total deaths were due to Heart Disease and diseases of the circulatory system.

Deaths from Cancer, 1.3 per 1,000 population.

Deaths from Heart Disease and Diseases of Circulatory System, 4.8 per 1,000 population.

Deaths from Respiratory Diseases, 0.7 per 1,000 population.

Deaths from Tuberculosis (all forms), 0.2 per 1,000 population.

The principle causes of death were :—

| DISEASE.  |    |    |    | Males. Females |   |
|---|----|----|----|----------------|---|
| Typhoid and Para. Fevers                              | .. | .. | .. | —              | — |
| Cerebro Spinal Fever                                  | .. | .. | .. | 1              | — |
| Scarlet Fever   | .. | .. | .. | —              | — |
| Whooping Cough  | .. | .. | .. | —              | — |
| Diphtheria  | .. | .. | .. | —              | 1 |
| Tuberculosis—Respiratory System                       | .. | .. | .. | 2              | 2 |
| Other forms of Tuberculosis                           | .. | .. | .. | —              | 2 |
| Syphilis Diseases                                     | .. | .. | .. | —              | — |
| Influenza   | .. | .. | .. | —              | 1 |
| Measles   | .. | .. | .. | —              | — |
| Acute Poliomyelitis                                   | .. | .. | .. | —              | — |
| Polio Encephalitis                                    | .. | .. | .. | —              | — |
| Acute Infect. Encephalitis                            | .. | .. | .. | —              | 1 |
| Cancer { Bucc. Cav.<br>Oesophagus (M)<br>Uterus (F) } | .. | .. | .. | 1              | 2 |
| Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum                        | .. | .. | .. | 2              | 4 |
| Cancer of Breast                                      | .. | .. | .. | —              | 6 |
| Cancer of other Sites                                 | .. | .. | .. | 7              | 6 |
| Diabetes  | .. | .. | .. | —              | 3 |
| Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions                        | .. | .. | .. | 14             | 8 |

| DISEASE.  |    |    |    |    |    | Males. | Females |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|--------|---------|
| Heart Disease                                     | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 28     | 45      |
| Other Diseases of Circulatory System              | .. | .. |    |    | .. | 2      | 3       |
| Bronchitis  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1      | 2       |
| Pneumonia   | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6      | 4       |
| Other Respiratory Diseases                        |    |    | .. | .. | .. | —      | 2       |
| Uleer of Stomach and Duodenum                     |    |    |    | .. | .. | —      | 2       |
| Diarrhoea under two years of age                  |    |    |    | .. | .. | 2      | 1       |
| Appendicitis                                      | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | —      | —       |
| Other Digestive Diseases                          |    |    | .. | .. | .. | 1      | 5       |
| Nephritis   | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 7      | 3       |
| Puerperal and Post-Abortion Sepsis                |    |    |    | .. | .. | —      | —       |
| Other Maternal Causes                             |    |    | .. | .. | .. | —      | —       |
| Premature Birth                                   | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3      | 1       |
| Congenital Malformation—Birth Injuries, Infantile |    |    |    |    |    |        |         |
| Disease, etc.                                     | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1      | 3       |
| Suicide   | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | —      | —       |
| Road Traffic Acc.                                 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4      | —       |
| Other Violent Causes                              |    |    | .. | .. | .. | 4      | 3       |
| All other Causes                                  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 12     | 7       |
| Total   |    |    |    |    |    | 98     | 117     |
| Total, both Male and Female                       |    |    |    |    |    | 215    |         |

## Infectious Diseases notified during 1944

(Excluding Tuberculosis).

| DISEASES.      |    | Under<br>1 year. |    | 1 to 5 |    | 5 to 15 |    | 15 to 25 |    | 25 and<br>upwards |    | Total. |
|----------------|----|------------------|----|--------|----|---------|----|----------|----|-------------------|----|--------|
|                |    | M.               | F. | M.     | F. | M.      | F. | M.       | F. | M.                | F. |        |
| Scarlet Fever  | .. | 1                | 1  | 10     | 5  | 3       | 8  | 1        | 3  | —                 | 1  | 33     |
| Diphtheria     | .. | —                | —  | —      | —  | 2       | 2  | —        | —  | —                 | —  | 4      |
| Whooping Cough | .. | 2                | 2  | 7      | 8  | 12      | 6  | —        | 2  | —                 | —  | 39     |
| Measles        | .. | —                | 1  | 4      | 3  | 7       | 5  | 1        | 3  | —                 | 1  | 25     |
| Pneumonia      | .. | 2                | —  | 1      | 1  | —       | —  | —        | —  | 2                 | 6  | 12     |
| Erysipelas     | .. | 1                | —  | —      | —  | —       | 1  | —        | 3  | 2                 | —  | 7      |

Thirty cases were removed to the Infectious Hospital.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

The following cases were notified during the year :

| PULMONARY. |          |        | NON-PULMONARY. |          |        |
|------------|----------|--------|----------------|----------|--------|
| Males.     | Females. | Total. | Males.         | Females. | Total. |
| 16         | 10       | 26     | 3              | 5        | 8      |
|            |          |        | 34             |          |        |

Seven cases were admitted for Sanatorium treatment and six left the District and have been notified to those areas.

The Age Group at notification :—

| Under 1 year. |    | 1 to 5 |    | 5 to 15 |    | 15 to 25 |    | 25 and upward |    |
|---------------|----|--------|----|---------|----|----------|----|---------------|----|
| M.            | F. | M.     | F. | M.      | F. | M.       | F. | M.            | F. |
| —             | —  | —      | —  | 3       | 3  | 3        | 5  | 13            | 7  |

The number of cases on the Register, 31st December, 1944, were as follows :—

| PULMONARY. |          |        | NON-PULMONARY. |          |        |        |
|------------|----------|--------|----------------|----------|--------|--------|
| Males.     | Females. | Total. | Males.         | Females. | Total. | TOTAL. |
| 63         | 53       | 115    | 21             | 19       | 40     | 155    |

## IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

|  | Under<br>5 years | Between<br>5 and 15 years |
|--|------------------|---------------------------|
| Number of children known to be immunised .. .. .   | 641              | 1,781                     |
| Percentage of children immunised in those age periods of the population at those age groups .. .. .  | 37.6             | 69.8                      |
| The previous year the percentage of the population at those age periods known to be immunised was .. | 43.2             | 59.8                      |

## BIRTH, DEATH, AND INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

|   | 1940. | 1941. | 1942. | 1943. | 1944. |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Birth Rate .. .. .<br>(Per 1,000 population).           | 12.6  | 13.4  | 23.7  | 16.3  | 18.9  |
| Death Rate .. .. .<br>(Per 1,000 population).           | 12.1  | 11.8  | 11.8  | 11.9  | 10.3  |
| Infantile Mortality Rate ..<br>(Per 1,000 Live Births). | 39    | 42.8  | 23.4  | 42.2  | 48.3  |
| (Deaths of infants under one year).                     |       |       |       |       |       |



FOR COMPARISON, THE BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANTILE MORTALITY  
RATES OF ENGLAND AND WALES, ETC., ARE GIVEN BELOW.

|   | England<br>and<br>Wales. | 126 C.B.'s<br>and<br>Great Towns. | 148 Smaller<br>Towns. | County<br>of<br>Gloucestershire. | Cheltenham<br>R.D.C. |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Birth Rate ..<br>(Per 1,000 population).  | 17.6                     | 20.3                              | 20.9                  | 20.0                             | 18.9                 |
| Death Rate ..<br>(Per 1,000 population).  | 11.6                     | 13.7                              | 12.4                  | 12.2                             | 10.3                 |
| Infantile Mortality<br>Rate<br>(Deaths of infants<br>under 1 year.)<br>(Per 1,000 Live Births). | 46                       | 52                                | 44                    | 46                               | 48.3                 |
| Deaths under 2<br>years of age<br>from Diarrhoea<br>and Enteritis..<br>(Per 1,000 Live Births). |                          |                                   |                       |                                  |                      |
|   | 4.8                      | 7.3                               | 4.4                   | 7.3                              | 7.6                  |

TEWKESBURY ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

This hospital which is situated in the parish of Tredington which is in the Cheltenham Rural District, was opened on the 20th August, 1942, on the recommendation of the Ministry of Health for the reception of patients suffering with Infectious disease who required isolation and treatment.

During the year 1944, 161 patients have been admitted to the hospital, and the diseases from which they were suffering were classified as follows :—Whooping Cough, 30 ; Scarlet Fever, 13 ; Scabies, 14 ; Measles, 13 ; Impetigo, 13 ; Infective Jaundice, 8 ; Mumps, 18 ; Cleansing and Verminous, 8 ; Diphtheria, 6 ; Erysipelas, 1 ; Cerebro Spinal Meningitis, 1 ; Typhoid, 1.

Patients were received from Military and R.A.F. Camps and also from the Boroughs of Gloucester and Tewkesbury, the Rural Districts of Newent and Gloucester, Public Assistance Institutions and Residential Nurseries in the County.

No Deaths were recorded.

## The Report of the Sanitary Inspector for the Year 1944

The following particulars have been submitted to me by Mr. E. H. Rosser, the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

### I. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during 1942.

|       |   |    |
|-------|---|----|
| 1 (a) | Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .. .. .   | 51 |
| (b)   | Number of inspections made for the purpose  | 96 |
| 2 (a) | Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 .. .. .              | 0  |
| (b)   | Number of inspections made for the purpose  | 0  |
| 3.    | Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .. .. .                                    | 1  |
| 4.    | Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .. .. . | 36 |

### II. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices.

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or their Officers .. .. . | 22 |
|---|----|

### III. Action under Statutory Powers during Year

|      |  |   |
|------|--|---|
| A.   | Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 .. .. .                                   | 0 |
| (i)  | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ..                     | 1 |
| (ii) | Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—                       |   |
| (a)  | By Owners .. .. .  | 1 |
| (b)  | By Local Authority in default of owners ..   | 1 |
| B.   | Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—  |   |
| (i)  | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. .. . | 0 |



|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| (ii) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—   |  |   |
| (a) By Owners .. .. .  |  | 0 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners  |  | 0 |
| C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Acts, 1936 :— .. .. .   |  |   |
| (i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .. ..  |  | 0 |
| (ii) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .. ..  |  | 0 |
| D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—  |  |   |
| (i) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .. .. .   |  | 0 |
| (ii) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenements or rooms having been rendered fit .. .. . |  | 0 |

#### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Nuisances discovered or reported .. .. . | 60  |
| Complaints not justified .. .. .         | 8   |
| Number of Visits .. .. .                 | 116 |
| Informal notices sent .. .. .            | 40  |
| Statutory notices sent .. .. .           | 1   |
| Nuisances abated .. .. .                 | 48  |
| Summons issued .. .. .                   | 1   |
| Convictions obtained .. .. .             | 1   |
| Premises disinfected .. .. .             | 28  |
| Premises disinfested .. .. .             | 22  |
| New drainage system .. .. .              | 18  |

#### IV. Housing Act, 1936. Part 4—Overcrowding.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .. .. . | 0 |
| (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases                       | 0 |

### POLLUTION OF STREAMS.

The pollution of streams at Ashchurch and Toddington continues. Several conferences and meetings were held but the results of these have been disappointing.

At Swindon the Military Authorities disconnected from the open ditch the Swindon Hall Camp and this immediately brought about an improvement in conditions.

Complaints were also received as to the pollution of the stream receiving the effluent from the Shurdington Sewerage Works. During the early summer months, the number of Military personnel at the Chargrove Camp was considerably increased and caused serious overloading at the Sewerage Disposal Works. After "D" Day, the number of personnel was gradually reduced and by the Autumn the condition of the stream was much better.

### WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE.

Following the dry winter, the yield of the springs was low, and this, together with an extra demand for war purposes, necessitated obtaining additional quantities of water from other sources. Also owing to the low yield of the springs, water had to be carted to properties at Birdlip, Brockhampton (Swindon) and Twynning.

During the year, additional springs at Grove Wood were collected. The maximum quantity taken from this new source on any one day was 150,000 gallons. This was less than half the quantity available. A temporary pumping main was laid overland to Cleve Hill Reservoir.

A new main was also laid from Ullenwood to a Military Camp near Elkstone. The source of supply is from the Cheltenham Corporation Waterworks. The permanent advantage of this new main is that it takes a supply part of the way to the village of Birdlip and supplies properties at Brockwell.

Water mains were also extended to the village of Deerhurst and this remedied conditions which have been unsatisfactory for a number of years.

During the year, investigations were made into the conditions of water supply and sewerage in every parish in the district. A comprehensive report was prepared and presented to the Council. This was approved and copies of this report have been sent to the Ministry of Health and Gloucestershire County Council. The Council has since instructed its Consulting Engineer to prepare

estimates of the cost of providing water supplies, sewers and sewage disposal works with a view to application being made for grants as and when these become available.

Samples are taken periodically from all springs, and submitted to the County Analyst. In addition, all water from these sources is chlorinated, even though satisfactory reports are received as to the quality of the water issuing from the springs.

### INSPECTION OF FOODS.

Owing to centralisation no regular slaughtering has been carried out in this area. A few emergency slaughters took place and these were dealt with in the usual manner.

Fifty-three inspections were made in connection with food supplies, and the following quantities found to be unfit for human consumption :—

|                             |    |    |    | cwt. | qrs. | lb. |
|-----------------------------|----|----|----|------|------|-----|
| Tinned fruit and vegetables | .. |    |    | 6    | —    | 13  |
| Tinned meat                 | .. | .. | .. | —    | 1    | 4   |
| Fresh meat                  | .. | .. | .. | 2    | —    | 12  |
| Rice                        | .. | .. | .. | 2    | 3    | 26  |
| Barley                      | .. | .. | .. | —    | 2    | —   |
| Tinned beans                | .. | .. | .. | —    | —    | 13  |
| Meat pies                   | .. | .. | .. | —    | —    | 1   |
| Ham                         | .. | .. | .. | —    | —    | 4   |
| Jam                         | .. | .. | .. | 21   | 1    | 13  |
| Milk                        | .. | .. | .. | 3    | 1    | 25  |
| Tinned fish                 | .. | .. | .. | 1    | —    | —   |
| Tea                         | .. | .. | .. | 1    | —    | 7   |
| Pepper                      | .. | .. | .. | —    | —    | 13  |
| Mustard                     | .. | .. | .. | —    | 2    | 14  |
| Custard                     | .. | .. | .. | 3    | 3    | 23  |
| Oatmeal                     | .. | .. | .. | —    | 2    | 4   |
| Figs                        | .. | .. | .. | —    | —    | 14  |

### MILK AND DAIRIES.

One hundred and forty-nine visits were paid to dairy premises in the district, the majority being at the time of milking.

In eight cases improvements were made by structural alterations and the provision of new cow-sheds and dairies.

**BAKEHOUSES.**

Six visits were paid to bakehouses, and conditions were satisfactory in all cases.

**FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.**

Twenty-five visits were paid to factories and workshops in the district, and when necessary notices were served.

**REFUSE AND SALVAGE.**

A house-to-house collection of house refuse is made throughout the district. In the parishes of Leckhampton, Prestbury and Winchcombe, a weekly collection is made. In other parts the collection is made once per month.

Before this service was made in the whole area there were a number of places where unsightly dumps existed. These have been cleared, and it can be said that the appearance of the countryside has benefited.